Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 6, 2002 TO May 10, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ Millions)	March			The value of building permits in Canada decreased 1.5% in March, but is up 23.2% on an annual basis. The value of non-residential permits fell by 2.1%, while residential permits decreased by 1.2%. The small 0.2% monthly decrease in Alberta's building permits reflects a 9.6% decrease in the residential sector, which was offset by an increase of 25.5% in the non-residential sector. Alberta's building permits are up 15.9% from March 2001.
Alberta	575.5	-0.2%	15.9%	
Canada	3,659.8	-1.5%	23.2%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	April			The Canadian help-wanted index remained almost unchanged in April at 126.6, up only 0.2% from March. Increases in Ontario (0.4%), New Brunswick (0.3%) and Quebec (0.1%) were offset by decreases in Saskatchewan (-0.5), Nova Scotia (-0.2) and Manitoba (-0.2). Between the months of February and March all provinces experienced very modest changes in the help-wanted index with Saskatchewan seeing the largest movement at –0.5%. The Canadian index is down 21.4% from April 2001, while the Alberta index is down 24.5%.
Alberta	136.9	-0.1%	-24.5%	
Canada	126.6	0.2%	-21.4%	
Urban Housing Starts (Thousands)	April			Urban housing starts fell in April by 11.1% to 158,600 units, while total housing starts in Canada fell by 11.3% to 184,500 units. Four provinces posted increases in housing starts, with the largest percentage increases in New Brunswick (58.8%), and Saskatchewan (53.8%). The largest decreases were shown by Prince Edward Island (-28.6%) and Alberta (-22.5%). Alberta's housing starts decreased 22.5% in April to 30,600, but are up 23.9% from April 2001.
Alberta	30,600	-22.5%	23.9%	
Canada	158,600	-11.1%	13.4%	